

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Office Action mailed June 26, 2006 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowance of claims 1-6, 11-20 and 24-31.

**35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection**

Claims 22-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by French (4,745,952). Applicants have canceled Claims 22-23.

**Conclusion**

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

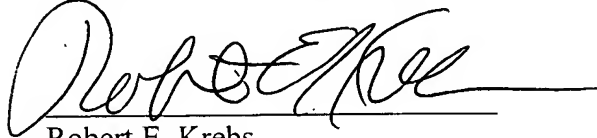
If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert E. Krebs', written over a horizontal line.

Robert E. Krebs  
Reg. No. 25,885

Dated:

A handwritten date 'Sep 21, 2006' in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

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